

**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

# **News Release**

Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 20, 1997

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing that the monthly premium rate for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) will decrease from 9 to 8-1/2¢ per \$1,000 of coverage, beginning July 1, 1997.

The change means that the monthly premium for a servicemember with the maximum SGLI coverage of \$200,000 will decrease from \$18 to \$17, a savings of \$26 million to servicemembers. The decrease is attributable to a continuing decline in mortality rates and is the first rate change for SGLI since July 1, 1994, when the rate was increased to 9 cents.

Some 97 percent of servicemembers, or a total of 2.3 million servicemembers, carry more than \$449 billion in SGLI coverage. More than 90 percent take the maximum \$200,000 in coverage.

Servicemembers insured by SGLI are guaranteed the right to convert their coverage to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) when they separate from service. VGLI is renewable for life in five-year-term periods and can be converted to commercial insurance at any time.